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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 9, 1999.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOHN E. SWEENEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent resolution honoring the life and legacy of King Hussein ibn Talal al-Hashem.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

PROMISE NO. 1: NAFTA WOULD CREATE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago last month the North American Free Trade Agreement, a trade agreement signed by the countries of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, went into effect.

The proponents of NAFTA during the debate earlier that fall, in the fall of 1993, made five central promises: They promised that NAFTA would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs for American workers; they promised that NAFTA would actually improve environmental conditions along the U.S.-Mexican border; they promised that imported foods under NAFTA would benefit American consumers; they promised that NAFTA would not only not hamper our effort, but help our effort to detect and keep out illegal drugs from across the border; and they promised that NAFTA would not reduce the safety of our highways.

Mr. Speaker, on all five counts NAFTA has been an abysmal failure. First of all, on NAFTA's promise to create hundreds of thousands of jobs since NAFTA became effective, became law in 1994, January of 1994, what was a \$1.7 billion U.S. trade surplus with Mexico fell into a \$14.7 billion trade deficit. At the same time, our trade deficit with Canada increased to \$18 billion, which, according to economists' estimates, a \$1 billion trade surplus or deficit translates into about 20,000 jobs.

So the \$14 billion trade deficit we now have with Mexico, which was a trade surplus prior to the North American Free Trade Agreement going into effect, has meant a loss of at least

300,000 generally good-paying industrial jobs for America's workers. So we have seen, instead of job increases as promised under NAFTA, we have seen hundreds of thousands of job losses.

Secondly, they promised that NAFTA would improve environmental conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border. Since NAFTA's implementation, the maquiladora zone, the region along the Mexican-U.S. border on the Mexican side, has attracted hundreds and hundreds of new businesses, mostly investments by American companies, often by Asian companies and other foreigners going into Mexico. We have seen no progress. In fact, we have seen significantly worse environmental conditions along the American-Mexican border.

Hazardous waste transports and dumping are increasing under NAFTA. We have seen an increase in hazardous waste imports into the United States from Mexico of 50 percent since 1996 alone.

We have also seen corporations, for the first time in what I can find in world trade history, we have actually seen corporations in one country sue a government of another country. American corporations have sued Canada, the Canadian government, to get Canada, successfully, unfortunately, to repeal one of its major clean air environmental laws.

We have seen case after case of corporations in one country suing governments in other countries to weaken food safety, environmental laws, and other laws that protect consumers and protect workers and protect all of us.

On the third promise, that imported foods under NAFTA would benefit American consumers, inspections along the border which used to be pretty regular and pretty frequent have now dropped to 2 percent. We inspect less than 2 percent of all foods coming into the United States from Mexico.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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